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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

DOCUMENT NO. 2

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010

AUTH: HR 70-2

1 July 1952

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 248

DATE: 11/2/80 REVIEWER: 19760

SUBJECT: Trip to Southeast Asia for Far East Staff Member

1. I would like to recommend that a member of the Far east Staff (possibly with a Board Member) make a trip to Southeast Asia at an early date. This trip would be approximately eight weeks duration.

2. I believe that such a trip would prove extremely valuable to O/NE and CIA for the following reasons:

- a. Although all members of the Far East Staff have spent some time in China, Japan and Korea, the staff has had little actual experience in countries of Southeast Asia. While a trip of the type envisioned would not provide significant area experience, as such, it is believed that, if properly organized, it would give a member of the staff an opportunity to talk to US officials and key local personages and to acquire some direct familiarity with the area.
- b. The situation in Southeast Asia appears to be undergoing important changes from the point of view of US security interests. There is evidence of an improved security situation in the Philippines and Burma and a deteriorating situation in Thailand; new governments have been established in Indonesia, Indochina, and Burma, and a new administration has been set up in Malaya. There are several NIE's dealing with Southeast Asia underway or planned (e.g. NIE-47, 35/2, and a new estimate due on the Burma situation). First hand observation of these new developments would be extremely valuable both from the point of view of working on these estimates and of analyzing the situation on a continuing basis.

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- c. Reporting from these areas, although varying from excellent to fair in quality, is not sufficiently comprehensive to substitute for periodic, on-the-spot, and intensive interviews and observations.
 - d. The foreseeable workload for the next two or three months in the Far East Staff appears to be manageable, even considering the change-over in the Staff Chief and an eight week absence of a staff member.
3. A suggested itinerary is attached.

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SUGGESTED ITINERARY

(Dates are obviously approximate)

Lv. Los Angeles 11 August

Ar. Manila 14 August

Lv. Manila 19 August

See: M.A.
Embassy Personnel
[REDACTED] 25X1A
Magsaysay (can be arranged)

Questions: Huks
Philippine politics
Treaty with Chi. Nats.
Treaty with Japan
Pacific Pact

Ar. Hong Kong (Macau) 19 Aug.

Lv. Hong Kong 24 Aug.

See: M.A.
Consul General
[REDACTED] 25X1A
[REDACTED] 25X1X7

Questions: Chi. Com. Caps. and
intentions, S.E.A.
Hong Kong and Trade
Changing [REDACTED] attitudes 25X1X7
toward Chi. Com. and
Chi. Nats.
Expected longevity for
Macau and Hong Kong

Ar. Hanoi 24 Aug.

Saigon-Pnompenh

Lv. Saigon 1 Sept.

See: M.A.'s
MAAG Personnel
[REDACTED] 25X1A
(If possible, French and
Vietnamese officials)

Questions: All for 35/2
Soviet vs. Chi. Com.
activity and influence
in Indochina
U.S. programs, mil., econ.,
covert
Cambodia outlook

Ar. Djakarta
Lv. Djakarta

2 Sept.
6 Sept.

See:

M.A.

25X1A

(If possible, Dutch Emb.
officials, Indonesian
officials)

Questions: New Indonesian govt.
MSA, TCA, and attitudes
toward USA
Commie activity and influ-
ence in insurrectionary
activities
Probable Foreign Relations;
outlook for cont'd. neutralism
US programs

Ar. Singapore-
Kuala Lumpur
Lv. Kuala Lumpur

7 Sept.
13 Sept.

See:

M.A.'s
Embassy officials

25X1A

25X1X7

if possible
Native officials, if possible
Business & Plantation offs.

Questions: Outlook for Templer's program
Com. Caps. and intentions
Anti-bandit campaign
New political parties
Soviet activity and influence
Attitudes toward Com. China

Ar. Bangkok
Lopburi
Lv. Bangkok

14 Sept.
20 Sept.

See:

M.A.

25X1A

25X1A

Phao and Sarit, if possible
MAAG officials

Questions: Internal Thai scene
Outlook for Thai orientation
L4 M1
Soviet influence and activities
Chi. Com. influence
US programs--mil., econ., covert
Chi. Com. caps. & intentions

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Ar. Rangoon-
Mandalay
Lv. Rangoon

20 Sept.

27 Sept.

See:

25X1X7

25X1A

M.A.

Embassy officials

██████ officials, if poss.

Burmese officials, if poss.

Karen officials, if poss.

Questions: Burma political scene
Burma changing orientation?
Karens
KMT
US programs--mil., econ.,
covert
Chi. Com. - Soviet influence
and activities
Outlook for Com. insurgents
and united front against
government
Chi. Com. Caps. & intentions
Influence of India

Ar. Washington

3 Oct.

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